



From the National President's Desk



Mice or Men

It's so good to see that the fellowship is growing, with new members joining Chapters and new Chapters opening. To God be the glory for the things He has done, also for the things He is doing today and every day.

Early one Sunday morning in June, I awoke with these words on my mind "men or mice." As I lay there contemplating these words, the Lord started to take me on a mini journey, not so much in the Spirit, but more in my mind and these are the thoughts I would like to share with you, not for condemnation but for exaltation and encouragement. Reading the history of The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International in Australia and hearing our Older Members (Mentors) speaking of days gone by, one can't help but wonder with open eyed amazement at the rate of rise and fall and now the rising again of this God anointed Ministry.

The original raising up of the fellowship was without a doubt the workings of Almighty God as many older chapter members would gladly give testimony to. That great time of the Charismatic Renewal or as some would put it, the Spiritual Renewal, Spiritual awakening, but especially what transpired as God poured out His Holy Spirit on all who came to a knowledge of the saving grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the physical healings. Men and their whole families were being transformed at every meeting. To God we give the glory, I was one who was saved from an alcoholic addiction at that time and transformed from the kingdom of darkness into His glorious light and when I say transformed I really mean transformed, literally from death to life. Now remembering those times is good and well, for they are part of our makeup and who we

are, but we can't live in the past, the future is ours the ministry goes on, God has not changed; He is the same yesterday today and forever. So what has changed? I really believe it is our personal individual communication skills. In those days we spoke to each other face to face, as we invited friends and neighbours to our functions. Today not so; we seem to have lost a lot of the personal one-on-one way of communicating the gospel message. Remember Christianity is not a religion but a personal relationship with Jesus our Lord and Saviour expanded as we share our personal testimonies with our neighbours and work colleagues.

Jesus, in giving the Great Commission according to Mark 16:14-18 - He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart. Have we got too comfortable sitting at the table going to meetings not going out preaching the gospel? Are we looking for the easy way out hiding behind our mouse and letting our computers do the talking? You know if the answer is yes, this will lead us to hardness of heart through the lack of love for the lost.

This fellowship has been built on its testimonies and it is high time we had new fresh testimonies from men who have just been saved in our meetings in the last month or two. You will know them because God is true to His Word which says "and these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

It has been some time since I have seen such men of faith, yet according to Scripture we all have the ministry of reconciliation; reconciling men to Christ, as He reconciles them to God and that is from day one of our walk with the Lord. A known fact is that we lead more people to the Lord in our first year or two of salvation then we do for the rest of our lives and this should not be the case. Let every chapter pray for souls and the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit in our meetings, let us go back to the basics of our ministry, reread our resource training manuals and learn afresh how to run a meeting so that the most important part of the meeting is the anointed call for souls before the close.

Gentlemen, it's not hard when we are walking in the Spirit, but it is all but impossible when walking in the flesh; let's throw off the things that are preventing the harvest, seek God for a fresh infilling of His Holy Spirit and move forward as men of God, in the power of God. If we just get one or two mates around us and pray we will see the windows of heaven open and the blessings of Almighty God saturating our meetings once again. Amen!

Love you all, Len.



The Frank Krause Story

Frank was raised on a dairy farm in Southern British Columbia, Canada, along with five sisters and one brother. Life was good – a dog, fishing in the creek, church, Sunday School, youth groups and more. When he was 15 things changed – no more church for him. His Dad showed deep disappointment but did not over react.

At 17 he was asked to leave the home because of his new priorities of drinking, dropping out of school, and other unacceptable behaviours. Things were out of control. Out of desperation he joined the army and was posted to Germany. Here his life with booze and pretty girls continued. Even so, Dad was happy to see him when he returned home three years later. But his lifestyle did not change. He soon met and married a girl whose father also was a heavy drinker. He seemed to fit right in. However, Frank did not forget his Dad's emphasis on hard work. He started his first business when he was in his mid-twenties, and it went quite well. Then he bought a large poultry farm which also did well. But his drinking would not disappear.

Realizing that he needed help he went to Alcoholics Anonymous, but was disappointed to find that all they could talk about was God. Frank DID want to change and even started taking his kids to church. He thought he was getting very religious until the drinking started all over again. In his thirties he sold his business and bought a nice big house on the hill thinking life would be perfect. He thought he had enough money to last for a lifetime. But it didn't.

Then one Sunday morning he was sick in bed with a hangover. For the first time in years he found himself praying, "God I have everything I want, and I'm still unhappy. There has to be more to life than this."



I ask that you do whatever it takes to get me right with you." Instead of getting better, things got worse. Their marriage was in a mess. Finances went down the drain. Finally, in order to stay alive, Frank had to take a job as a humble employee at a road building camp. His pride took a hit. The only positive thing in his life when he finally came home, was seeing his Dad. In spite of all the heartache he had caused he knew his Dad always cared and was happy to see him. Shortly after one of these visits, he got a call telling him his Dad had passed away.

By this time he was so hardened that he had no desire to return home because the one person he knew that loved him was gone. But he had no choice because he had been made executor of his Dad's estate. After all had been taken care of, two things remained unclaimed – his Dad's bedside Bible, and a book by Hal Lindsey, The Late Great Planet Earth. He tossed them into his bag and went on a two-day drunken spree, before heading back to camp for work.

As the days went by, Frank started reading more and more of the underlined verses in his Dad's Bible. What particularly attracted his attention was the passage where it said that when Jesus died on the cross, He died for all sins: past, present and future. This stopped him cold in his tracks. So it was all about Christ, not Frank being good enough. Right there he got down on his knees and accepted Christ's forgiveness for his past sins. He literally found himself jumping up and down on his bed yelling, "I'm free! I'm free!" For the first time he was free of all the turmoil. Real change started to take place. AA helped him get victory over his drinking problem. Nearly a year later he met and married June, his childhood sweetheart. Soon he and June had a desire to serve the Lord together. They were able to go on an Amazon Jesus film project where they saw many people turn to the Lord.

June and Frank became aware of something not being right with Frank physically. On December 16, 1994 he was diagnosed with ALS, known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Life expectancy was short at best. He asked God to take away the fear of death, which he did. Knowing that he would soon go to be with the Lord, he spent time wondering what it would be like to be in the presence of Jesus. His thoughts also went back to his Mom and Dad who had loved him unconditionally through all the ups and downs.

After four and a half years of having Lou Gehrig's disease, Frank Krause passed into the presence of the Lord, peacefully in the early hours of December 23, 1998.

From Ron Oastler

What sets FGBMFI (Australia) apart today? There are a number of things. In this second of a short series of articles we introduce:

"Witnessing" – yes, you can do it ...
Uncomfortable with witnessing? Guilty when you don't do it?

We talked about that in last month's Newsletter and, as Dick Innes pointed out in his tantalising book 'I hate Witnessing,' it starts with being *honest* with the Lord about our feeling and then making ourselves *available*.

During my days as President of the Sydney Hills Chapter (located in Epping), we had a wonderful variety of members. There were technicians, builders, salesmen, accountants and administrators, tradesmen, architects, the lot!

One quiet, unassuming young man was Bruce, a motor mechanic.

Bruce confided to me one day that he was too shy to broach the subject of his faith, with his friends and customers.

'Do they know that you are a Christian?' I asked.

'Yes, I think so ...'; he replied.

'Well', I suggested, 'make sure that they do. You could start by letting them know that you are involved with a Christian men's fellowship that have great dinner meetings where men share experiences that have enriched their life and the life of their family. Then you can comfortably invite them to a Chapter dinner'.

Bruce thought that was a reasonable idea - and he turned up at the next Chapter dinner with four of his un-saved mates. (Now, any member can do that...yes?). As I recall, two of them committed their lives to the Lord that night.

But the story does not end there. For the next year or more, Bruce came to the monthly Chapter dinners with anywhere from two to five men with him. He brought them all the way from Manly-Warringah to Epping and every time there was at least one or two saved and sometimes more. So much for being shy about witnessing!

And this story still does not end here either.

For me, one of the exciting encounters that men had with Jesus was when he met up with two brothers at their workplace.

'Walking beside the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers; Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. He said to them, Come follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men (lit 'people'). Matt 4:18, 19

'Come follow Me' is not just an invitation. The literal meaning implies an emphatic and compelling call – 'Follow Me'. The promise to 'make' you fishers of men has the sense of 'to make ready; to prepare'. Get the idea?

If we are diligent in following Jesus He promises to prepare us and make us ready to be 'fishers of men'. It is not all up to us. We have to be *honest, available* and *follow* Him.

'Making ready' is a work of the Holy Spirit and it involves 'gifts given' for the building of the body of believers. The Fellowship (FGBMFI (Australia) can help members to grow and to develop their capabilities in witnessing and winning men through teaching the essentials of 'how to'.

This is part of our plan in the days ahead. Get ready!

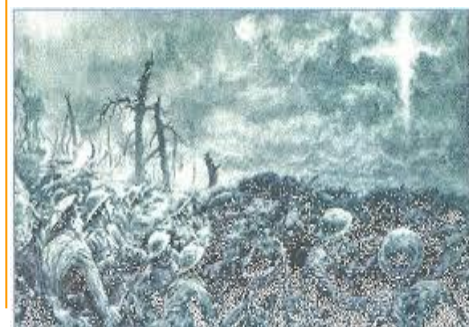
Batemans Bay Inaugural Dinner Meeting

Michael Welsh is all set for their first FGBMFI (Australia) Outreach Dinner taking place on 20 September 2014. Special guest speaker is Gary Raymond who has a powerful testimony appealing to those in every walk of life. If you are in the area contact Michael and make a dinner reservation. See FGBMFI website for details



Gary Raymond APM & OAM

100 years on we remember those soldiers that gave their lives so that we could be free.



British soldiers in a trench with a white cross on their front in 1915 and, below, a black cross on their back



August 2014 Newsletter

Bio – David Smethurst – Advisor

David was an accountant in Southern and Central Africa, where he became the financial controller of the country's largest transport company. He was also involved in national sport in South Africa in swimming, water polo and athletics. In 1972 God called him and Margurita into full time ministry. This calling has taken them into churches, schools, universities, youth groups and camps, colleges, military, navy & air force bases and prisons across the world including Africa, Australia, USA, Canada, Britain, Ireland, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Serbia, Spain, Holland, France, Iceland, Singapore & Malaysia, to preach the Gospel and bring people into a positive relationship with Jesus. David & Margurita head a charity that supports 5,700 orphans in 47 orphanages in Ukraine, Latvia, Belarus and Serbia. David was Chaplain for the Olympic Games in Sydney, Athens and Beijing as well as the 2003 Rugby World Cup and the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. David completed 10 weeks of service at the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics as a Chaperone-counsellor where he was able to bring many athletes to the Lord.



Anthony Rossi – Tropicana

Anthony Rossi grew Tropicana into the largest fresh-chilled orange juice company in the world and donated millions to further the work of Bible schools and missionary services. He immigrated to the United States from Sicily at the age 21; unable to speak any English, without formal education, and with no money or connections to help him get started in America. Anthony Rossi went on to own many businesses and to eventually take over a small orange juice company in Bradenton, FL and through innovation, creativity and tenacity, transform it into the industry leader, Tropicana.

Anthony was raised a Catholic but after selling his New York City grocery business, began reading the Bible and attending the First Methodist Church. He then began to daily commune with Jesus Christ, subsequently taking everything to the Lord in prayer. He began to give God the glory for the solutions to difficult problems and the development of new ideas. In turn, God took Anthony Rossi's willing heart and developed him into a servant-leader who employed God given talents to benefit others and to be useful for God's work in the world. His efforts to advance the Gospel through his Aurora Foundation were extraordinary; funding Christian Educational institutions and Christian missions, including the funding of a church in Anthony's native Sicily and the creation of the Bradenton Missionary Village, a one hundred acre, \$10M Florida community for retired missionaries. In a Town and Country Magazine in 1983, he was named one of the top ten most generous living Americans. To please God became the primary objective of Anthony Rossi. Another Giant for God.



"His Banner Over Us is Love"



Membership

Full Gospel Fellowship International (Australia) is open to all men who wish to be part of this vibrant organisation, who have a heart to reach others and bring them into a relationship with Jesus Christ. You must read and understand our Doctrinal Statement and be willing to serve as a chapter member giving of your time and expertise.

Please return your completed membership application (along with our doctrinal statement) form to our treasurer John Diamond at 43 Knight St Rochedale South QLD 4123. Membership forms can be printed from our website: fgbmfiustralia.com

Membership fees are \$100.00 per annum. To have an effective Fellowship we need all members to pay their dues to fund the ongoing expenses of the Fellowship as per the budget approved by the National Board. Being paid up members of the Fellowship is important and all personnel should hold their membership as significant and of value. Being members allows you to experience all the benefits that are associated with the organisation including being able to vote and have your say at the appropriate time. If you have no chapter in your area or it is not functioning your membership will be held as a National member. Those already in an active chapter will also be National Members and then chapter members. This way all members are included and not overlooked when information is being passed on.



August 2014 Newsletter

**INTERNATIONAL
Our Mission**

FGBMFI is one of the largest Christian business organizations in the world. Founded in 1953, we are in 142 nations - meeting in over 7,000 chapters. Our members and leaders include every race, culture, social status and language.

By God's grace, we connect people with opportunities to reach out and help others find a better life and work together to build better communities.

We do this by:

Calling people back to God...

there is a better life by following Jesus Christ.

Promoting integrity and good character...

being a reflection of God to our world.

Participating in God's good work...

releasing gifts, talents and resources to help others.

Working together to build better cities & nations...

impacting our leaders and our culture.

Taking the message of God's love to every family...

a true grass roots effort that is changing the world.

"The mandate from God is that we break the chains of despair in the world. Our mandate is to destroy the isolation of loneliness, and link the world to God!"

Demos Shakarian, Founder



"It is our destiny to lift up God in every business center, every marketplace, every government center and university... every nation, city, town and crossroads of the world. People of faith, shining with God's glory, bringing the uplifting message of God's power... reaching out, helping, encouraging and lifting. Today, through our efforts, we believe that over 2 million people come to God each year."

Richard Shakarian, International President



Richard & Vangie Shakarian



...and God said 'PUSH'.

From Ron Oastler

A man was sleeping at night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might. So, the man did this, day after day.

For many a day he toiled from sun up to sun down, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all of his might. Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain. Since the man was showing discouragement, the enemy (Satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind: "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved." Thus giving the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure.

These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man. Satan said, "Why kill yourself over this?" "Just put in your time, giving just the minimum effort; and that will be good enough." That's what the man planned to do, but decided to make it a matter of prayer and take his troubled thoughts to the Lord. "Lord," he said, "I have laboured long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimetre. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord responded compassionately, "My son, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted I told you that your task was to push against the

rock with all of your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to Me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But, is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back sinewy and brown, your hands are callused from constant pressure, and your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. Yet you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. This you have done. Now I, my son, will move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves mountains.

When everything seems to go wrong just...P.U.S.H.

When the job gets you down...just P.U.S.H.

When people don't react the way you think they should... just P.U.S.H.

When your money is "gone" and the bills are due...just P.U.S.H.

When people just don't understand you...just P.U.S.H.

P - Pray U - Until S - Something H - Happens.

